



*Description of a Wonderful Child which was seen at Naples, 1681.*

Of the numerous Wonders in Nature, that have been in other Nations, as also in this Kingdom of England, could occasion more Admiration, than this present Monster will afford to the Beholders of it. And although it is said by *Satorelle, Lib. 14. de Nat. San. cap. 17.* That he hath seen the Effects of Nature in a Monstrous Child; and although Philosophers declare, that in their time an Infant was born consisting of three Natures (as the Poet *Triton* affirms) yet will not these Assertions be so much satisfaction to the Spectators, as the real sight of a more prodigious Birth will give them, that shall behold it.

This Child (as the Inhabitants of the City of *Beiseglia* in *Poville* do testify) was bred through a strong Fantasie; and the Father, named *Peter Anthony Consiglio*, and the Mother named *Elizabeth Naskasia*, do both declare, that the occasion was as followeth.

*Elizabeth* his Mother, carrying some Sheets of hers to the side of the Ocean, to wash them in a River that was there, she saw a great number of Sea-Fishes and Sea *Tortoises*, whereof she conceived a very great Impression in her Mind: Which strong Imagination so perplexed her, that she gave notice thereof to her Husband, but he not being able to dissuade her from it, she continued in a most sad Condition, untill the time of her Delivery; when she brought forth a Monstrous Child, whose Body was quite covered with the Scales of Fishes, having nevertheless a beautiful and comely Neck and Face, with no unseemly Colour. His Head is adorned with curious Flaxen Hair, and from the Neck, down to the Sole of the Foot, he is all over Blackish and Hairy, intermixt with Spots of several Sorts and Colours, like unto the Scales of Fishes. He is of Humane Stature, but tender limbed. The bottoms of his Feet are white, and so are the insides of his Hands, like unto the Shells of a Sea *Tortoise*. He is about 10 years old, and is named *Barnardin*. His Mother admiring her monstrous Child-bearing, kept him secretly, so that it was not publick in the Country, she in the mean time, often dipping and washing him all over in water, thinking and hoping that thereby the Scales would fall off; but God Almighty was pleased that he should retain them, thereby to shew to the World, that Nature had brought to light so Monstrous a Birth, covered all over with Scales like a Fish, and the most astonishing Object that ever any Man beheld. I pray God of his mercy, never to send any more such monstrous Children into the World, as this which we here see; of which, it is yet more to be admired, that no sooner than the old Scales and Shells drop off, but presently others come in the stead of them.

*It is many times not the Parents from whom such Monsters come forth, but strange Imaginations and Inwards that are the Causes thereof.*